



State of New Hampshire  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

6 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 95, Concord, NH 03302-0095  
(603) 271-3406 FAX (603) 271-7894



Mr. Rodney Bartlett  
Town of Salem  
Public Works Dept.  
21 Cross Street  
Salem, NH 03079

August 8, 2002  
Letter of Deficiency  
DAM #209.04

RE: Wheeler Dam East Dike, Salem

Dear Mr. Bartlett:

The Department of Environmental Services, Dam Bureau (DES) consistently strives to enhance the safety of dams in New Hampshire through its dam safety program. One of the many instruments that plays a part in reaching this goal is our inspection program. DES is forwarding this correspondence to you to advise you that in accordance with RSA 482:12 and Env-Wr 502.02, an inspection of the subject dam was conducted on March 8, 2002. During this visual inspection and/or file review, the following deficiencies were observed:

- 1 The crest of the dam is rutted from all-terrain-vehicle (ATV) use and is uneven along the crest. It appears that the ATVs are accessing the dike at the left downstream groin of the embankment, driving along the crest of the dike, and driving down the upstream face to the adjacent beach area. This ATV traffic is damaging all portions of the embankment that they travel on;
2. There is sloughing on the upstream face top of the slope of the embankment located 30 feet from the fence located near the right abutment;
- 3 There is heavy tree and brush growth on both the downstream and upstream faces of the dike which is in violation of the signed O&M plan;
4. There is a pile of leaf debris on the downstream face of the dike located 50 feet from the fence on the right abutment;
5. There is tree growth located to the right of the fence, near the right abutment, on the upstream and downstream faces of the embankment;
6. There are at least two animal burrows on the downstream face located approximately 80 feet to the left of the fence on the right abutment and 12 feet down from the crest. Additional burrows may be located within the heavily overgrown areas of the dike; and
7. There is no breach analyses or inundation map on file for this dike.

DES believes that the above deficiencies can be corrected by performing the following items by the indicated schedule:

**November 1, 2002:**

1. Repair the rutting and soil erosion on the dike caused by the ATV traffic. The embankment crest should also be surveyed to determine if there are low areas along the crest and repaired as necessary. Please be aware that it is the Town's responsibility to prevent unauthorized vehicles (including ATV's) from traveling on the dike. It is recommended that the Town post no trespassing signs on all areas of the dike;

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2. Repair the sloughing on the upstream face, top of slope, of the embankment located 30 feet from the fence located near the right embankment;
3. Inform DPW personnel about the existing operations and maintenance plan for the dike which requires weekly site visits in the summer and monthly visits in the winter. The personnel should be informed what to look for, such as seepage and brush growth. In addition, DPW personnel should be scheduled to conduct maintenance activities, such as cutting brush growth, twice per summer season as specified in the signed O&M plan;
4. Remove all tree and brush growth from the upstream face, crest, downstream face, and the flat area which extends to the chain link fence just beyond the toe of the dike. It should be the goal of the DPW to maintain a hearty grass cover on all areas of the dike except for the upstream face which is currently covered with rip-rap;
5. After removing the brush as indicated above, fill the two animal burrows on the downstream face of the dike located approximately 80 feet from the fence near the right abutment and 12 feet down from the crest; and
6. Submit an EAP and conduct the test of the plan on an annual basis.

DES is requesting that you complete and submit the attached "Intent to Complete Repairs" form, within 30 days of receipt of this letter, that will provide for correction of the identified deficiencies by the date(s) indicated above. If you believe changes to the items of work or dates are necessary, please make the changes directly on the form and provide a brief explanation. We have enclosed a self addressed stamped envelope for you to return this form.

Our intent in sending you this correspondence is to make you aware of items that DES believes warrant your attention to insure the continued safe operation of your dam. It is our hope that, through the submittal of the attached form and a commitment to keeping a well-maintained dam, you will voluntarily comply with the requested items of work. If we do not receive the intent form or a similarly adequate written reply, we will assume that you are in agreement with our findings and recommendations and DES will carry out follow-up inspections accordingly.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this Letter of Deficiency or would like to be present at future inspections, please contact me at 271-3406, or write to the Water Division at the address listed on the top of the previous page.

Sincerely,  
**COPY**  
Jeffrey M. Blaney  
Dam Safety Engineer

Attachments Guideline for an O&M plan, DB8, DB13  
cc: Town of Salem, Selectmens Office

Gretchen Rule ✓  
Certified # 7000 1670 0000 0586 0684  
JMB/was/h:/safety/wendy/lod/209-04lod.doc